

THE

ל'פ"ח

SHEKEL

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**IN HONOR
OF THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL**



A SPECIAL ISSUE

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

With the assistance of many Israeli friends and associates, this special issue of *The Shekel* is AINA's contribution to the world's tributes and offerings of congratulations on twenty-five years of statehood. *Mazel Tov!*

- HOW ISRAEL'S OWN INS WAS FORMED
- THE BACK-STAGE STORY OF THE PLATINUM MEDAL
- THE FIRST ARTICLES FROM ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA
- ISRAEL'S ARTISTS AND OTHER NEWS

THOUGHTS OF YOU AS AINA VISITS ISRAEL ON THIS VERY SPECIAL YEAR

by Morris Bram
President, AINA



It is entirely likely that as you read these words in early March, somewhere in the United States, I will be with your friends, relatives and loved ones in Tel Aviv . . . of Haifa . . . or perhaps even in the office of Yitzhak Avni in Jerusalem. And though we will be a contingent of 125 AINA members and their families many making second, third or even fourth trips to Israel, we will be representing you in our tribute to Israel on her *25th Anniversary Year*.

In these pages of AINA's own 25th Anniversary Tribute of Love and Well Wishes to Israel, you will find much of the numismatics, the people of Israel and America who share their numismatic and cultural identity with a zeal that is not matched by any other non-professional hobby or collector group.

You will hear about the numismatic adventures and enthusiastic meetings with fellow Israeli numismatists from those on this trip on our return. Or you will read about their total *Israel Study Experience* in some of the stories which will reach the pages of *The Shekel*. But there is another way you can learn at first hand of the trip; you can talk to those who were part of this *1973 Israel Study Tour yourself*.

Many will be sharing the experience of the first convention in AINA history in early May at the *Greater New York Coin Convention*. Among the unusual events will be a reunion of all of those who were on the first five Study Tours; and you are certainly welcome to join in the happy session.

I can think of no more meaningful activity of major benefit to the growth of Israel numismatics in the U. S. than the success of the May convention. Imagine! Thousands of visitors from the northeastern section of the U. S.! Busloads and carloads of AINA members from 10, 15 — perhaps every chapter across the country! The excitement of the 3-day auction of Paramount! The brilliant displays planned by the Exhibits Committee! The tremendous educational effort which will entertain and enlighten you and fellow collectors at the numerous lecture sessions! The AINA business session with the results of the first nationwide election to AINA's Board!

Yes — except for the formation locally of the various Israel Numismatic Societies, THIS is the big event of American-Israel numismatics in 1973.

So, we expect to see you there. *Right now* you should sit down and write to AINA for your room reservation; table reservation at the Banquet; or to find space to exhibit some of your best cases. *Right now* you should be starting to plan for the visit for you and your family to New York. The hotel is the newly renovated New York Sheraton, just below Central Park on Seventh Avenue. The days are May 3 through the 6th. Admission each day is free.

So, though we are half around the world, you see that you are not far from our minds.

Shalom,

Morris Bram, President

FROM THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS TO THE ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

by A. Kindler, Tel-Aviv

On May 10th, 1945, the founding session of the "numismatic section" of the *Circle of Friends of Jewish Antiquities* was held in Tel-Aviv.

The first meeting took place in the flat of the late Leo Kaufmann (Kadman). At the meeting participated Dr. J. Mestschanski (Meyshan); the late Architect D. Nudelmänn; Architect H. Pavell; Architect D. Kissin; Mrs. Kissin; the late Leo Kaufmann (Kadman); the late F. Neuburger; the late A. Adari; and Mr. A. Kindler.

Mr. Adari welcomed the founder members in the name of the *Circle of Friends of Jewish Antiquities* and the late D. Nudelmänn reviewed contemporary views on ancient numismatics.

The members decided to elect three to the following posts: D. Nudelmänn, chairman; Dr. J. Mestschanski, honorary and liaison officer to the *Circle of Friends of Jewish Antiquities*; and L. Kaufmann, secretary.

It was furthermore decided to have a meeting every third week at the home of Leo Kaufmann to hear a lecture on numismatics; to show numismatic material connected with the subject of the lecture; and finally to identify unknown coin-types.

The group planned to establish a numismatic library within the archaeological library of the *Circle of Friends of Jewish Antiquities*, which was housed in the Tel-Aviv Museum. To assist this project, they asked members of the numismatic group to provide lists of numismatic books in their personal libraries in order to make them accessible to other members.

It was agreed not to ask members to pay any membership fee, but instead to ask them to make an annual contribution of P.L. 0.500 for the acquisition of books.

They planned to arrange an annual numismatic congress and a numismatic exhibition.

From Collecting to Research

From the outset, the members of the new group were occupied with coin collecting without great knowledge of the subject. It was only the chairman, the late David Nudelmänn, who had many years of experience in numismatics.

With the beginning of systematic activities, the group of collectors passed from ordinary collecting to intensive research, especially in the



From the outset, Israel's numismatists agreed to assist in the identification of coins found in Israel's numerous historic sites as at this First Century synagogue at Capernaum in northern Israel.



Arie Kindler, Director of the Kadman Numismatic Museum and a early founder member of Israel's famed Numismatic Society.

field of Jewish numismatics. Each year, six to eight lectures were given in the Kaufmann (Kadman) home. The reading of the lectures were illustrated by coins shown and discussions on the subject.

In 1947 the "numismatic section" of the *Circle of Friends of Jewish Antiquities*, re-established itself as the *Israel Numismatic Society*.

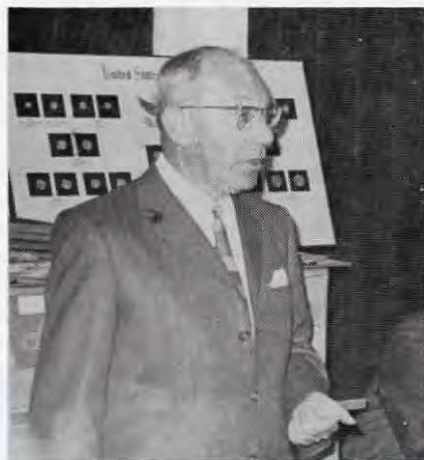
National numismatic congresses were held once a year, each dedicated to a special subject. The first congress held in March 1951 we dedicated to the Jewish coinage; and the second in May 1952 to the city-coinage of Palestine. At the congresses coin exhibitions relating to the current subject were organised.

By then, congresses were attended by about seventy participants, a high figure in relation to Israel's population of those days and even in comparison to congresses of this kind in various European countries.

The *Israel Numismatic Society* is involved in creating various sorts of publications, such as the series of *Publications of the Israel Numismatic Society*, Vol. I-VI, *The Israel Numismatic Bulletin* and the *Israel Numismatic Journal*.

Prominent members of the *Israel Numismatic Society* are members of the board of the Israel Numismatic research fund, which is responsible for the publication of the *Corpus Nummorum Palaestinensium* of which so far have been published four volumes of the coins of: *Aelia Capitolina*, *Caesarea Maritima*, *the Jewish War* and *Acco-Ptolemais*. Three further volumes are under preparation, namely *Sebasto-Neapolis*, *Bar-Kokhba* and the *Hasmonaeen coins*. Finally there is the publication of the *Alon*, a Hebrew quarterly of numismatic news.

Many members of the *Society* published their research efforts in the above mentioned papers and elsewhere. Among them, mention should be made of the late Stella Ben Dor, the late Prof. Sukenik, the late Prof. Reifenberg, the late Leo Kadman, Dr. Leo Mildenberg, a correspondence member, Dr. J. Meyshan, Arie Kindler, Dr. T. Meshorer and Dr. E. W. Klimowski.



Dr. E. W. Klimowski, present president of the INS and a well-known numismatic scholar. He has spoken in the U.S. to AINA groups.

The strong will for team-work was characteristic of the *Israel Numismatic Society* from its very beginning. Members of the Society became good numismatists because of that team-work in which discussions and exchange of views were involved. The profound interest in the historical background

of the coins lifted many members above the average level of coin collectors. Thereby the *Israel Numismatic Society* gained recognition of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and close cooperation was established.

Excellent relations were also established with the Department of Antiquities and what was then the Bezalel National Museum. In fact, the *Israel Numismatic Society* became reknown among numismatic scholars over the world and the research of its members is highly esteemed among professional numismatists outside Israel. Relations with numismatic institutions (societies, asociations, museums, universities, etc.) were gradually established. Thereby the members of the *Israel Numismatic Society* have been able to render service to such institutions and to receive service in return, such as information, plaster casts, etc.

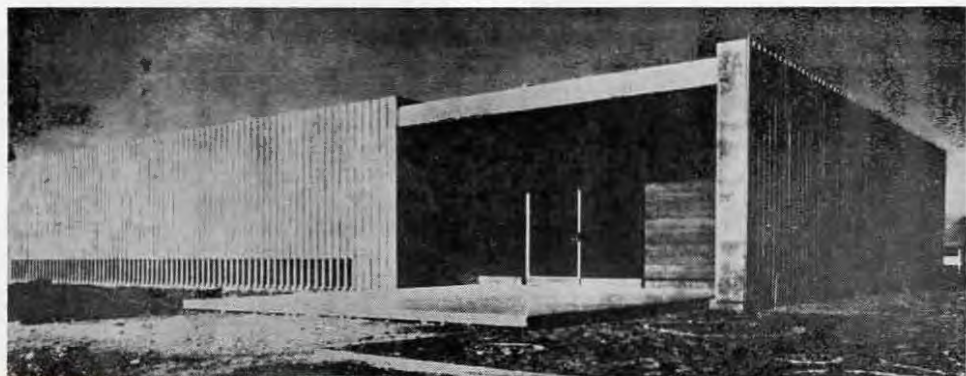
Shortly after the *State of Israel* was established in 1948, the *Israel Numismatic Society* was officially recognised by the *State of Israel* as a learned society. Prominent members, the late Leo Kadman and architect H. Pavell, were appointed members of a commission whose task it was to design and decide upon the shape of Israel's coins and bank notes. A similar procedure was undertaken in connection with the issue of the first series of Israel's stamps on which ancient Jewish coins are depicted.

In 1948 the first chairman of the society was killed during a bombing of Tel-Aviv and the late Leo Kaufmann (Kadman) was elected chairman. The numismatic library of the late D. Nudelmann was acquired for the society. A collective acquisition of some 4000 ancient Palestinian coins was made and Mr. A. Kindler was entrusted with the just division of the material among the members who were partners to this acquisition. A service was established for the identification of coins found by Jewish settlers in the fields.

Society Progresses

Prominent members of the society, such as the late Leo Kadman, Mr. A. Kindler, Dr. J. Meyshan and Dr. E. W. Klimowski were received in audience by the late president of the *State of Israel*, Mr. Izchak Ben Zvi, who himself a collector, showed much interest in the work of the Society. Members of the *Society* were even involved in revealing the mystery of the theft of the coin collection of the *Hebrew University*, Jerusalem.

Members of the *Israel Numismatic Society* participated in international numismatic congresses, such as Paris (1953), Rome (1961), Copenhagen (1967). The *Society* organized an international numismatic convention in Jerusalem (1963). For this convention, 35 of the foremost numismatic scholars of the world came to Jerusalem. The subject of the congress was



The internationally famous Kadman Numismatic Museum in the suburbs of Tel-Aviv has become the center for exhibits, displays and permanent library facilities for coins of Israel and nearby cultural centers. The collection of the late Leo Kaufmann (Kadman) was a starting point for the Museum's own extensive collection.



Representative copies of the Society's publications.

"The pattern and monetary development in Phoenicia and Palestine in Antiquity". Besides the sorrow fact that the late Leo Kadman collapsed and died during the opening session, the convention was a great success. Its proceedings were subsequently published with Mr. A. Kindler as editor.

Since Leo Kadman's death, Dr. E. W. Klimowski is chairman of the society.

Society Now at 250

The *Israel Numismatic Society* has now about 250 members with Tel-Aviv as the main branch and with further branches in Jerusalem, Haifa and Afule. The Kibbutzim are organized in a regional branch for geographic reasons.

In 1962, the *Kadman Numismatic Museum* was inaugurated in Tel-Aviv and it subsequently became the centre of the *Israel Numismatic Society* and its activities. There the meetings of the Tel-Aviv branch are held with nine lectures and nine seminary sessions during each year. There the library is housed, namely the numismatic library of the Museum which is the most comprehensive of its kind in Israel. The address of the society is P. O. B. 17056, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

Thousands of World Collectors Disappointed as Demand Exceeds Supply AINA Members Disappointed; AVNI Tells of Growth

Members of AINA were among thousands of numismatists around the world chagrined to find that planned purchases of recent Israeli offerings such as the Chanukah and Pidyon Haben proof coins could not be fulfilled.

First mails to AINA sold out all available coins, announced Morris Bram, who had the totally unprecedented and unhappy task of advising thousands of would-be collectors that their orders could not be accepted.

Israel Explains

From Jerusalem, Yitzhak Avni attributed the phenomena of the early sell-out of the popular Israeli issues to a number of factors and new conditions.

"There is no country in the Western world, outside of the Communist countries, where Israeli coins and medals are not among the most eagerly sought after collectibles with a future. The fact of the 25th Anniversary Year; the relative affluence of the industrial countries; the increase in collecting even in Israel itself . . . all of these have played a role in making early commitments for the entire mintage of certain items one of the phenomena of our times."

Plans are being developed in a number of circles to assure collectors with a better chance to acquire coinage in modest quantities in the future.

AINA regrets that its members were among the disappointed.

FROM THE
ENCYCLOPEDIA
JUDAICA
SHEKALIM,
SHEKEL

SHEKALIM, fourth tractate in the order of **Mo'ed*, which deals, in eight chapters, with the annual half-shekel tax collected for the maintenance of the Temple and its services, and with allied subjects. There is no *Gemara* in the Babylonian Talmud but there is in the Jerusalem, and this *Gemara* is usually included in the printed editions of the Babylonian Talmud. There is *Tosefta*, divided into three chapters. The reason for placing this tractate in the order of *Mo'ed*, dealing with festivals, is somewhat problematic. Since *Shekalim* deals principally with matters connected with the Temple, its expected place might have been in the order *Kodashim* ("Holy Things") together with the tractates *Middot* and *Tamid*. It is probable, however, that its inclusion in *Mo'ed* is connected with the opening paragraph of *Shekalim*, which says: "on the first of Adar, announcement is made concerning *shekalim* . . . on the 15th, the *Megillah* is read in the walled cities . . ." This formulation associates *shekalim* with the idea of an "appointed time," which is the basic meaning of *mo'ed*. Moreover, the first paragraph of chapter 3 significantly links the periodical allocations from the shekel funds with the festivals of Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot.



Figure 1. Bronze shekel struck in the fourth year of the Jewish War, c. 70 C.E. The inscription in ancient Hebrew reads "Shekel Israel." Jerusalem, Bank of Israel Collection.



THE SHEKEL wishes to acknowledge with deep gratitude the permission extended by the Editors of the *ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA* to reproduce major excerpts from this unexcelled and voluminous history of the Jewish people and their culture. The *ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA* is available in English in sixteen lavishly-illustrated volumes. For information, please write to *ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA*, 104 East 40 Street, New York.





Engraving for the tractate *Shekalim*, showing the payment of the half-shekel tax collected for the maintenance of the Temple, from the Hebrew-Latin Mishnah illustrated by Mich. Richey, Amsterdam, 1700-04, J.N.U.L.

It is also remarkable that the various printed editions and manuscripts of the Mishnah, Tosefta, Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds differ widely as to the place of *Shekalim* in the sequence of tractates within the order *Mo'ed*. There are a few instances of its being placed ninth, 11th, or 12th, but it is most frequently found as either fourth or fifth. Following the rule that tractates with a higher number of chapters take precedence, *Shabbat* (24), *Pesahim* (10) and *Eruvin* (10) took the first three places, while *Shekalim* and *Yoma*, each with eight chapters, vied for the fourth place. But there is evidence, coming from geonic times, that *Shekalim* used to be studied before *Yoma*, and eventually the placing of *Shekalim* as the fourth tractate of *Mo'ed* prevailed.

As to biblical provisions concerning the half-shekel tax, Exodus 30: 11-16 sees it as a onetime measure for the purpose of a popular census. But in II Kings 12:5-17, 22:3-7, II Chronicles 24:5-14, 34:8-14, and in Nehemiah 10:33-34 it appears as a permanent institution. It is remarkable that

the last mentioned source speaks of a "third part of a shekel," having in mind Persian currency.

The contents of the eight chapters of this tractate are as follows: chapters 1-2 deal with the time and manner of levying this tax. Chapters 3-4 deal with the allocations of the shekel fund, when they were made, and how they were to be used. Chapter 5 lists the various chief officers of the Temple, and speaks, in particular, about the administration of the funds. Chapter 6 says first that there were in the Temple 13 "chests" for money donated, two of which were marked for shekel contributions. It then goes on to list other things of which there were 13 in the Temple. Chapter 7 first discusses the use to which lost money found on the Temple premises should be put, and goes on to consider similar questions, e. g., that of meat or cattle picked up in the sanctuary or elsewhere in Jerusalem or in the provinces. Various other questions are also touched upon, e. g., a burnt-offering sent by a heathen from abroad. Chapter 8 discusses a variety of questions which have nothing to do with the subject matter of this treatise, except for the incidental statement that the law of *shekalim* became obsolete with the destruction of the Temple. The following aggadic passages from the Jerusalem Talmud to the tractate are well known: "No monuments need to be put up for the righteous, their deeds are their memorial" (2:7, 47a), and "Whoever settles in Israel, speaks Hebrew, eats his fruit in ritual purity, and reads the *Shema* morning and evening is assured of the world to come" (3:4, 47c).

The tractate *Shekalim* for the most part consists of early material and there are sections and chapters which have come down in their original form. All the officials mentioned in chapter 5 lived between the time of *Agrippa I and the destruction of the Temple (41-70 C.E.) and some of them are mentioned by name in Josephus, while three others are mentioned also in the Mishnah of **Middot* and **Tamid*, which were arranged at the end of the Temple era. Yose b. Hanan played a considerable part in its arrangements and one may assume with certainty that chapters 3, 5, and 6 are actually by him. The Tosefta contains many variations of and additions to the Mishnah, chiefly in the names of the officials. Hence it is evident that the Tosefta utilized the Mishnah of a different *tanna*. Despite this it is clear

that the source of the Tosefta is not later than that on which the Mishnah is based. *Judah I (ha-Nasi) also made use of the *mishnayot* of later *tannaim* who taught this tractate, among whom should be noted Judah b. Ilai from whom apparently comes the whole of chapter 1, Simeon (ch. 2:1-4 and ch. 7), and Yose, chapter 4 being apparently wholly from him. There is much information about the shekel offering, both in Erez Israel and the Diaspora. The New Testament refers to the "collectors" of the half-shekel in *Capernaum (Kefar Nahum) to whom Peter gave a **sela* on his own behalf and on behalf of Jesus (Matt. 17:24-27). Josephus (Ant. 18:311f.) describes the methods whereby the Jews of Nehardea and Nisibis sent their half-shekel, and *shekalim* from Egypt are already referred to in the *Elephantine papyri and by Philo. The Mishnah was translated into English by H. Danby in 1933.

Bibliography: Epstein, *Tanna'im* 25-27, 338-45; H. Albeck, *Shishah Sidrei Mishnah*, 2(1958), 183-6. [A.Z.E.]

SHEKEL, coin minted in Erez Israel.

Shekel. Originally the shekel was a unit of weight for means of payment in gold and silver. In the third millenium B.C.E. one already finds this unit of weight in Babylonia, weighing there 8.4 grams; it was divided into 24 *giru* (Heb. *gerah*). 60 Babylonian shekels were a mina (Heb. *maneh*) and 60 mina a biltu (Heb. *kikkar*). This system was introduced in Canaan with some alteration, as the *maneh* generally consisted of 50 shekels only. As the *kikkar* was equivalent to 60 *maneh*, it amounted to 3,000 shekels in Canaan, instead of 3,600 in the Babylonian system. The shekel as a unit of weight for gold is mentioned in Genesis 24:22 and Joshua 7:21 (for the shekel as unit of weight for silver, see Gen. 23:16; II Sam. 14:26; II Kings 15:20; Zech. 11:12-13).



Figure 2. "Shekel" Zionist membership card and voting certificate, for elections to the Second Zionist Congress, Jerusalem. Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem.

There were two standards of shekel weights, namely the Babylonian and the Phoenician. Both standards had a heavy and light system:

	heavy (grs.)	light (grs.)
Babylonian	22.0-23.0	11.0-11.5
Phoenician	14.5-15.3	7.3- 7.7

The shekel weight during the First Temple period relates to the light Babylonian system. In the fourth century B.C.E. Phoenician silver coins, such as the Sidonian double shekel and Tyrian stater circulated in Erez Israel. The former, whose average weight was 26.43 grams, relates to the Phoenician heavy weight, though being somewhat lighter. It may be compared with the Tyrian staters of that period, which are of an average weight of 12.9 grams, two of which would approximate the Sidonian double shekel.

Ptolemy II (285-246 B.C.E.) reformed this coinage by reducing the weight of the tetradrachm from the Attic standard (17.46 g.) to the Phoenician standard (14.30 g.) Thus, the tradition of the Phoenician shekel was kept alive and adopted later by the city of Tyre, which issued shekels

from 126 B.C.E. until about 56 C.E. These had an average weight of 14.2 grams and were of good silver. They were therefore recommended by the sages for payment of the Temple tax (Shek. 1:7). During the Jewish War (66-70 C.E.), due partly to a shortage of Tyrian shekels which had not been issued by then for about ten years, the Jewish authorities issued silver shekels of their own, with the legends *Shekel Yisrael*, *Hazi ha-Shekel* ("half-shekel") and *Reva ha-Shekel* ("quarter shekel").

PERUTAH. The only Jewish coin denomination mentioned in the Mishnah, Talmud, and Midrash besides the shekel is the perutah. Numismatists identify this denomination with the Hasmonean and early Herodian coinage, that of the Roman procurators, and the smaller coins of the Jewish War. The Hasmoneans undoubtedly adjusted their coinage to the Seleucid standard. Their perutah had an average weight of 2 grams and an average size of about 15 mm.; it may be compared to the Seleucid dilepton. The Hasmoneans also had a lepton, or half-perutah, and a tripleton, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ perutah. The perutah of that weight and size was retained until about 30 C.E. From the time of Agrippa I (42 C.E.) onward, the perutah increased in weight and size to an average of 2.55 grams and 17 mm.; this brought it close to the weight and size of the Roman quadrans, which under Nero weighed 3.21 grams and was 17-18 mm. The relation of the perutah to the silver coinage is mentioned in the Talmud (Kid. 2a, 12a) in two variations: (a) 192 perutah in a dinar, which corresponds to the Seleucid system and therefore refers to the Hasmonean period, and (b) 144 perutah in a dinar, which reflects the situation after 30 C.E. when the weight and size of the perutah were increased and Erez Israel was under Roman control.

HEZI AND REVI'A. The only bronze Jewish coins that bear an indication of their denomination are those of the fourth year of the Jewish War (70 C.E.) *Herzi* ("half") appeared on the large bronzes and *revi'a* ("quarter") on the smaller sized coins, but it is not known of what denomination these coins were halves and quarter. All suggestions to solve this problem remain hypothetical.

OTHER DENOMINATIONS. The Herodian tetrarchs Antipas and Philip II, as well as the kings Agrippa I and II, adjusted their coin denominations to the city coin system prevailing in Erez Israel and therefore have no Jewish character. The same also applies to the coinage of the Bar Kokhba War (132-35 C.E.), which is overstruck on the money then in circulation, i.e., the Roman silver coinage, both imperial and provincial, and the Erez Israel city coins. The silver tetradrachm, however, was called *sela* by the Jews and the silver denarius *zuz*. The various denominations mentioned in the Mishnah, Talmud, and Midrash refer mainly to Roman coinage (see *Coins, In Talmudic Literature).

[A.K1.]

IN THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT. The biblical name shekel was given to the First Zionist Congress (1897) to the fee and card of Zionist membership. Its price was fixed at 1 franc, 1 mark, 1 Austrian crown, 2 shillings, half a dollar, 40 kopeks, etc. The shekel also served as voting certificate for elections to the Zionist Congress, and until the 25th Congress (1960) the number of delegates allocated to a certain election area (country) was calculated on the basis of the total of shekels sold there. Erez Israel had the privilege of the "double shekel," being entitled to twice the number of delegates that any other country received for the same number of shekels. The reverse side of the shekel bore the text of the Zionist program and for 25 years, after the 18th Congress (1933), also the "discipline clause," meaning that the discipline of the World Zionist body takes precedence over that of any other Zionist body.

The growth of the World Zionist Organization is reflected in the number of shekel holders: 164,333 in 1907; 584,765 in 1923; 1,042,045 in 1939; 2,159,840 in 1946; and 2,148,029 in 1960. The new constitution of the World Zionist Organization (1960) retained the shekel as a token of Zionist allegiance and voting card, fixing its cost at between 15 and 50 cents or their equivalent, but making the size of congress representation independent of the shekel sales. The 27th Congress (1968), by resolving that each country may itself determine the system of congress elections to be held there, abolished the shekel as an obligatory institution and left it to the countries to decide whether to retain

the shekel as a certificate of membership and voting card for the members of the local Zionist Organization concerned.

In 1970 a decision was taken by the Israel Knesset, to go into effect shortly afterwards, to call the unit of Israel currency "shekel." [A.Z.]

Bibliography: F. W. Madden, History of Jewish Coinage and of Money in Old and New Testament (1864, repr. 1967 with Prolegomena by M. Avi-Yonah), incl. bibl.; idem, Coins of the Jews (1881); T. Reinach, Les Monnaies Juives (1887); A. Reifenberg, Ancient Jewish Coins (1947²); idem, Israel's History in Coins (1953); S. Yeivin, Milhemit Bar Bokhva (1957²), 80f.; Ben David, in PEQ, 100 (1968), 145ff.; 80f.; J. Fraenkel, History of the Shekel (1956²).

ISRAEL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY MINT-MARKED SETS

Obverse and reverse of the 25th Anniversary Mint-Marked Israel Sets for 1973. No wallet set will be issued in 1973.



Israel's 25th Anniversary official mintmarked sets, comprising the country's six currency coins (1 agora, 5, 10 and 25 agorot, 1/2 and 1 lira), will be released in early March. The sets are issued by the *Bank of Israel* and distributed by the *Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation*, Jerusalem.

Only 100,000 Sets

According to Rafael Aldor, North American Director of the Corporation, only 100,000 sets are to be struck in 1973 as in 1972. Since 1973 is Israel's 25th *Anniversary Year*, the coins comprising this year's sets will have three features distinguishing them from the regular 1973 currency coins:

- a tiny Star of David mintmark.
- a special inscription, in Hebrew on the obverse: "Israel's 25th Anniversary".
- all six denominations will have a uniform silver-like appearance, since five coins will be struck in cupro-nickel (three of these are regularly made of brass) and one in aluminum.

No wallet type specimen sets will be issued by the *Bank of Israel* this year, as in 1970, 1971 and 1972. As a special silver anniversary gift, a free set of the six 1973 currency coins, in a small vinyl bag, will be distributed with each individual purchase of *three* mintmarked sets. This will enable collectors to obtain this year's regular currency coins for their collections as well.

SOME CITY MEDALS OF ISRAEL

These medals were created in Israel by various cities and municipalities and were issued in uniface as they were mounted upon plaques. They were struck in various metals; all edges were plain and all were 59mm. There are probably other medals of this type for various cities.



District Council of
Menashe—Tombac



Bat-Yam
Bronze 59mm



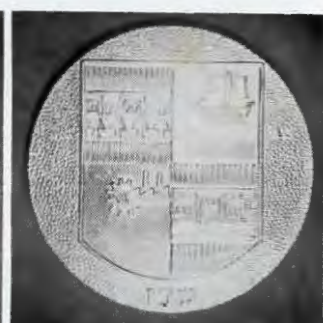
Herzilya
Tombac 59mm



Haifa
Bronze 59mm



Givat Hayim
Tombac 59mm



Akko
Bronze or Gilded



Natanya
Tombac 59mm



Giv'at Ono
Bronze—Gold Letters



Petah Tikvah
Tombac 59mm

ISRAEL'S FIRST PLATINUM MEDAL: THE BEHIND-SCENES STORY OF THE BIRTH OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY MEDAL



by George Gilbert

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY MEDALS

*In Platinum: one troy ounce — 35mm
\$350.00*

*Limited Edition: 5,000,
serially numbered and
magnificently packaged for
U.S.; 2,500 for Israel.*

*In Silver: 45mm — \$14.00. Size of issue
to be announced later.*

*In Bronze: 59mm — \$5.00. Size of issue
to be announced later.*

*Delivery for all medals is planned for
the Pre-Summer period, advises the
Israel Government Coins and Medals
Corporation.*

*The plan for platinum production was
developed as a special courtesy for the
American collector who has not been
able to acquire gold coins and medals
because of regulations prohibiting import
of gold coins and medals minted after
1933.*

The remarkable 25th Anniversary Medal, first in the history of the State of Israel to be struck in pure platinum, has its own remarkable origins.

As with all offerings of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation on behalf of the State of Israel, the design starts by Charter of the Corporation with the appointment by the Prime Minister of an *Ad Hoc Public Committee*, charged with suggesting the medals to commemorate the *Silver Anniversary* of the State of Israel.

The Prime Minister chose an auspicious committee, nominating at its head Professor Yigael Yadin, archaeologist-historian of Hebrew University, formerly Chief of Staff of the Israel Army. To make available further depth of knowledge of Jewish history and origins, Professor J.

Prawer, Jewish History and Professor Z. Werblowsky, Jewish Religion were nominated. To represent the vast knowledge of coinage past and present, the eminent Y. Meshorer, Numismatic Curator of the Israel Museum was asked to sit on the Committee. To assist with art ideas, B. Schatz, an Israeli artist was asked to participate. Finally, to represent the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation who would produce and market the new medals, Yitzhak Avni, Director-General, was named Coordinator between the *Ad Hoc Committee* and the Corporation.

The Birth of 12 + 1

The Committee convened first in late Summer 1972, reviewing a number of ideas. After some discussion, the idea of launching 25 individual medals during the *Anniversary Year* was discarded. It simply created a vast problem for all concerned: the Corporation who would produce them and the collectors who would seek to acquire them.

After further review, the concept of 12 + 1 was decided upon. There would be a total of 13 medals; not one for each of the 13 months of the Jewish Calendar, but rather 24 medallic faces (12 medals) plus one

medal representing the *25th Year*. Thus: 12 + 1.

In committee meetings led strongly by Prof. Yadin, the outlines of the medallic program began to develop. Each of the medals would have a *reverse* and an *obverse* which would represent the identical experience or phenomena in Jewish life of the Past and the Present.

For example, one medal would cover the theme of the *Ingathering of the Exiles*. One side would feature the *modern Ingathering* (1949); its reverse would depict the return of the Jews from the *Exile to Babylon* in the *5th Century BC*.

It was this 12 + 1 plan which the *Ad Hoc Public Committee* brought to the Board of Directors of the Corporation. This was the plan which had to be measured against the fact that the *Silver Anniversary Year* would already announce a rebirth of the Chanukah coins; the new Pidyon HaBen coin; the Mintmarked Sets; and silver, bronze, gold and platinum medals in a variety of sizes.

12 + 1 Rejected

The Board of Directors after some consideration of the fact that no collector would be able to finance the entire numismatic outpouring of 13

Continued on page 30

This well-known floor of a Fifth Century synagogue with a zodiacal mosaic floor was the inspiration for the reverse of the 25th Anniversary medal.



GABRIEL AND THEIR GENIUS IN DESIGN IN HUNDREDS OF COINS, AND BANKNOTES FOR



Bold graphic concepts marked this exceptional medal honoring 25 years of the Zion Maritime Lines (ZIM) which uses ship shapes and lettering innovations on the reverse and obverse to command the seafaring theme

For centuries, Jewish artists would have been delighted to be commissioned to design a Coat of Arms for a Sovereign Jewish State. For obvious reasons, this dream could not be realized.

Twenty-five years ago, with the establishment of the State of Israel,

even this dream was to come true. But which artist? With which design? In 1948, 131 artists took part in the competition proclaimed by the Provisional Government of Israel. The design for the Coat of Arms submitted by Gabriel and Maxim Shamir of Tel Aviv was chosen . . . by a unanimous vote.

MAXIM SHAMIR

HAS BEEN PROVEN

STAMPS, MEDALS

ISRAEL AND OTHER COUNTRIES



*The Brothers Shamir
of Tel Aviv*



The 70th and 75th Anniversaries of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) was permanently memorialized by these Shamir designs which feature massive ZOA instant identification. The subordinate message is made into an edge design while anniversary year and identification of the convention share the medal's central area.

With this dramatic design achievement, the Artist-Brother team became famous not only in Israel but abroad. Since that momentous moment, for the new State of Israel and for the young brothers, they have created many emblems and postage stamps for Israel and countries around the world. Their talents also have been devoted to the

design of bank notes, coins and a large number of commemorative medals.

It has been in the medals and coins area in which the Shamir Brothers have been most active. The official catalogue of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation credits these prolific artists with these successes:



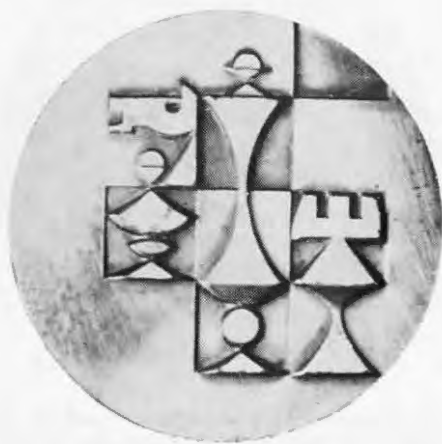
The 30th Anniversary of the Israel Philharmonic Symphony featured design theme from musical instruments.



A test design for a medal on the theme of the rescue by sea from the camps.



The Parachutists' Medal of 1967 was created at the request of the Israel Defense Forces.



This chess piece design was created to honor the 16th Chess Olympics in Israel of 1964.

3 Hannukah coins: 1961, 1962, 1963

Int'l Congress of Clerks: 1964

16th Chess Olympic Medals: 1964

Jubilee of Hebrew Legion: 1967

Port of Ashdod: 1966

Massada Medal: 1964

Additionally, the medal for the 30th Anniversary of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; the Tel Aviv Medal; the 100-Year Anniversary of Shaarei Zedek, Jerusalem medal; and for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the State Medal for the Ministry of Tourism, a medal which will forever identify the Shamir Brothers with the progress of the State.



Only 500 medals honoring Israel's Tourist Trade will be struck in silver, to be awarded across the world to those who have made contributions to Israel's tourism. Medal designed by Shamir brothers for the Ministry of Tourism's 25th Anniversary.



The 1-lirit Hanakah coin of 1962.



The medal of the 7th Maccabiah in Israel in 1965.



The Massada Medal of 1965 was struck in a few sizes.

Among the medallic curiosities created by this unique artist team? A medal given to a limited number of officers of the French Army by the Israel Minister of Defence, David Ben-Gurion, in 1956 after the Sinai Campaign.

It reads in French:

*En profonde reconnaissance
pour son précieux concours.
David Ben-Gurion*

Many Americans have owned Shamir creations for a number of years without knowing of their creators. Such well-loved and frequently displayed medals as the Massada medals in particular are especially noteworthy examples of the Shamir talent.

The average Israeli is never far from the handsome efforts of the Shamir. All they need do is reach into their pockets. Most of the Banknotes of Israel are Shamir creations!

PLANS COMPLETED FOR GREATER NEW YORK COIN CONVENTION

The American Israel Numismatic Association will celebrate its *First Annual Convention* at the *Greater New York Coin Convention* to be held May 3-6, 1973 at the remodeled and refurbished New York Sheraton in New York City. Six thousand guests and visitors are expected.

The exhibit and bourse rooms will be open from 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. so that dealers may join the convention attendees at the gala cocktail party. This will be followed by a gourmet banquet in the Corinthian Room, formerly the Coconut Grove.

Besides the admission-free convention and the associated activities that have been planned, plans have been made for prospective attendants to visit a multitude of places and do things in exciting Fun City.

In excess of one hundred exhibit cases will feature not only the finest in U. S. numismatics, but will also portray twenty-five hundred years of

coins that were struck, used or associated with the *Holy Land*. All prospective exhibitors should request a copy of the exhibit rules and application from Edward Janis, *Exhibit Chairman*, 30 East 42 Street, New York, N. Y. 10017.

Outstanding coin dealers from every area of the country including Canada and Europe have reserved tables, reported William Anton, Jr., *Bourse Chairman*. Because of the scope of the convention, more bourse space has been allotted in the New York Sheraton than ever before. A few tables remain available.

Paramount International Coin Corporation of Englewood, Ohio, under the direction of John S. Queen will conduct a major numismatic sale which will be held at three sessions starting Thursday at 7 P.M. and closing on Saturday starting at 1 P.M.

Sunday's feature will be an educational program planned and moderated by Edward Schuman, Miami-based AINA Vice President. Mr. Schuman has chosen three outstanding numismatic personalities for an excellent well-balanced forum.

The Hon. Yitzhak Avni, *Director General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation* is no stranger to the American numismatist. Mr. Avni, always receptive to the wants of the American collector, was most instrumental in the reinstatement of the Chanukah series this year after a nine-years lapse.

Knowledgeable Mrs. Margo Russell, 35-year veteran working newspaper woman and long editor of *Coin World*, will tell of her experiences as a numismatic ambassador to groups varying in nature from Congressional hearings to university students attending lectures.

Continued on page 30



The headquarters hotel for the Convention is two blocks from Central Park and only a few blocks from Radio City, the theatre district and numerous fine restaurants.

SIX THOUSAND EXPECTED TO ATTEND 4-DAY SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND CLUB CONVENTION IN MAY

Morris Bram
Convention Chairman

COMMITTEES

Bourse Chairman: William T. Anton, Jr.;
Vincent Alones, Alan Weinberg
Educational Forum: Edward Schuman
Exhibit Chairman: Edward Janis; Jackson
Storm, Roger Storm
Club Coordinators: Ben Spencer, Irwin Stoff
Security: Vincent Alones
Registration: Morton Zerder, Michael
Granis
Banquet: Walter Stefanacci; and Lou Was-
serstrom

Publicity: George Gilbert
Cocktails: Irving Golub
Tours Reunion: Harry Schacher, Fred
Roganson
Reception & Hospitality: Moe Weinschal,
David Greenberg and Al Yatkowitz
Youth Group: Alan Weinberg, Nathan
Sobel
Awards, Medals & Badges: Nathan Sobel
and Vincent Alones

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 3, 1973
Friday, May 4, 1973
Saturday, May 5, 1973
Sunday, May 6, 1973

New York Sheraton Hotel
7th Avenue at 55th Street
Below Central Park—above Times Sq.

PROGRAM

Thursday, May 3

9:00 AM Dealers and Exhibits Set Up
11:00 AM Registration Opens
12:00 PM Bourse and Exhibits Open to
Public
7:00 PM Paramount Auction Sale —
First Session
9:00 PM Closing of Bourse and Exhibits

Friday, May 4

9:00 AM Registration Opens
10:00 AM Bourse and Exhibits Open to
Public
7:00 PM Paramount Auction — Second
Session
8:30 PM Reunion of AINA Tours —
Wines/Cheeses served
9:00 PM Closing of Bourse and Exhibits

Saturday, May 5

9:00 AM Registration Opens
9:30 AM Bourse and Exhibits Open to
Public
10:00 AM Annual Meeting of AINA
Members
12:00 PM INS Clubs; Delegates Work-
shop Meeting
1:00 PM Paramount Auction — Final
Session
6:00 PM Bourse and Exhibits Close
7:00 PM Cocktail Hour
8:30 PM Banquet and Presentations

Sunday, May 6

10:00 AM Registration Opens
10:30 AM Junior Group Meeting and
Tour of Convention
11:00 AM Education Forum — Guest
speakers
2:00 PM Meetings of Participating
Clubs
2:30 PM Meeting of Judaica Heritage
Society
4:00 PM Exhibit Room Closes
5:00 PM Convention Closes

DIG AT TEMPLE YIELDS COINS HEROD TO



The Western Wall as it appeared in 1845 — "From Dan to Beersheba," John P. Newman.

Ancient coins found at four levels of excavation have helped piece together the history of Jerusalem between 41 C.E. and 363 C.E., according to Professor Binyamin Mazar, writing in the *Jerusalem Post*.

General bounds of the excavation in Jerusalem are south of the Temple Mount, along the entire length of its southern wall (the upper part of Ophel hill) and the board area adjoining the southernmost section of the Western, or "wailing," wall. Excavations have proceeded continuously since 1968, Mazar advises.

Ancient Coins Uncovered

First coins found in the area are from the days of Constantine the Great and his heirs. Latest-dated coins in this period are from Julian, 360-363 A.D. It is believed that the coins were in a building erected during Byzantine rule, then razed by the Jews in prepa-

ration for the rebuilding of the temple.

Many coins minted at the Roman colony Aelia Capitolina, located at the site of Jerusalem, dated from Hadrian, 117-138 A.D., to Lucius Septimius Severus, 146-211 A.D. Other evidences of this period found with coins included fragments of marble statues, bronze statuettes and figurines and pottery. In general, relics from this era were found near the southwest corner of the Temple Mount, in conjunction with many Roman bricks and roof tiles, many bearing marks of the Tenth Legion and the colony, Aelia Capitolina.

Following the razing of the temple at Jerusalem by Roman legions in 70 A.D. ("Not one stone shall be left on top the other") a sparse, meager settlement survived in the razed city occupied by the Tenth Legion, prior to formation of Aelia Capitolina. From this period a coin has been found struck by Simon Bar Kokhba.

WALL FROM JULIAN

Digging at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem since the 1967 war gave access to the hallowed site has uncovered numerous significant finds. Coins have helped to verify dates of various strata starting from Constantine the Great.



Most coins found in the excavations, Mazar said, were found dating from the time of Herod Agrippa I, 41 A.D. Most of these pieces were struck in Jerusalem. Weights in the same hoard bore Greek inscriptions, also dating from Agrippa.

The hoards from 41 A.D. and from 70 A.D., were found in the excavation of the Hulda gates area, the aqueduct running beneath the main street along the Western wall, and the large cisterns and pools. Excavations have been made to bedrock, an indication that there would be little opportunity to find remains at greater depths.

Search for Herod's temple, in modern times, dates from the efforts of Charles Warren, representing England's Royal Engineers. The archaeologist initiated research in the 1860's by drilling test plots in the vicinity of Haram el-Sharif. More recently, be-

tween 1961 and 1968, Kathleen M. Kenyon directed excavations in the area.

Following acquisitions of more of the area following the Six-Day war in 1967, Mazar sought advice and support from Dr. Avraham Biran, director of the Israel department of antiquities and museums; Mayor Teddy Kollek; and with sponsorship from the Israel Exploration Society and the Institute of Archeology of the Hebrew University.

The excavation efforts are continuing, Mazar emphasized, and he summarized his two major goals for 1973; Continuation of the work in the area of excavations south and west of the Temple Mount; and the scientific treatment of the material so far recovered by members of the staff.

(Reprinted from Coin World)

ABOUT INSCRIPTIONS, SEFUNIM, ISRAEL'S HOBBY PAPERS

by Dov Genachowski



As usual, let me start with my "book review department". First, from the *Israel Museum* in Jerusalem which just mounted an exhibition called "Inscriptions Reveal".

Inscriptions are, by their very nature, the most important tool available in reconstructing the past. This exhibition covers the period from about 3,000 B.C., up to the period of the *Mishnah* and *Talmud*. Our alphabet underwent numerous changes during this period, as did other sectors of paleography. Coins bear inscriptions at least most of the time and hence their important place in this exhibition.

I have before me the exhibition catalogue, a volume of 278 pages, profusely illustrated and published in the usual high standard of the Museum catalogues. The sections on coins were prepared by Yaacov Meshorer. I say "sections" in the plural because this is the important thing here—the coins are described as part of an historical, cultural and social sequence, something we numismatists tend to ignore in our searches for types and variations. The book is available in both Hebrew and English from the Museum; IL. 15 each.

Let us go from Jerusalem north to Haifa, to the *National Maritime Museum*. The latest volume of its bulletin, "Sefunim" covers three years, 1969 to 1971. I regret this, as this bulletin really should come out at least annually, but I suppose there are budget considerations. It is a fascinating volume: articles about astrolabes, seals and scarabs, ancient anchors, undersea treasures make for interesting reading even for sworn landlubbers. Two really great articles include "Warships on Ancient Coins"

by Professor Lionel Casson of N. Y. Then, when a professor or religion writes about coins, the result is the superb "Gods, Personification and Sea-Monsters", by Professor David Flusser of the *Hebrew University*. This article has appended to it a catalogue of coins prepared by Dr. Ringel of the *Haifa Museum of Ancient Art*. The illustrations are profound, comprehensive and interesting; one wishes only for better quality. It is offered in Hebrew with English summaries.

* * *

Talking about exhibitions and about Yaacov Meshorer brings me to an exhibition we are planning together at the *Israel Museum*: "The Bank of Israel Collection". It is planned for Spring 1973, and will include the Bank's collection of Jewish and other ancient coins as well as coins of modern Israel (the latter part with an assist from the Government Coin and Medals Corp.). It will include some items rarely seen: suggestions for coinage, dies, internal medals of the Bank and so on.

The main problem in getting this exhibition on its way is probably the fact that when getting together with Yaacov one first discusses the current state of numismatics and numismatic research, then reviews recent finds, sales and so on. When that is concluded, there is usually not much time left. Well, as the saying goes, we shall overcome.

Still on exhibitions: I hear that in June or July the exhibition of the Jerusalem Old City Diggings under Professor Mazar shall open, at the Citadel ("David's Tower") in the Old City. The number of coins found is in thousands, so that this will be a unique numismatic event.

Recently I persuaded "my" editor for a leading Israeli newspaper to accept an article on Palestine and Israeli tokens. He did not figure there was reader interest in the subject (it is a daily, not a numismatic publication). Anyway, they ran the piece, with some illustrations from my collection, in a week-end magazine section. The results include at least one reformed editor. Letters came in by the bag, about half asking how much this or that token is worth; the other half ask where they can be bought. Among other things, I told the story I personally heard from the late Arie Samsonov of Zichron Jacob, that containers of the Zichron tokens were buried somewhere in Zichron's fields when the Turks figured them to be an expression of Jewish autonomy. So there are several letters from members and ex-members of the Army Engineers Corps. They, naturally, had all the electronic equipment necessary for a search; all they wanted were some coordinates on the map. Unfortunately, they were disappointed. Had I known any coordinates, I would have been out there digging, not writing about the stuff.

A rather cursory "census" turned up more than *thirty* coin dealers in Israel, some large, some small; some with shops, some operating from their homes. Which brings me to the idea that it is really time for the start of something like the P.N.G. in Israel. There have been cases, some recent, when the need for a self-policing body of professional numismatics became really evident.

* * *

Speculation, and even profits, are dirty words for the serious numismatist. Many of us look askance, therefore, at the booming market in Israeli coins. It became a speculator and investors market. My personal reaction was and is to concentrate more and more on my tokens and my Turkish coins. But one must admit that there are "fringe benefits" in the boom for everybody. One of these is the virtual surge of coin columns in the press: *Haaretz*, *Davar*, *Hatzofer*



Four Israeli newspapers plus the hobby paper, *TAHBIB*, are now bringing numismatic news and current coin quotes to the Israeli collector.

and *Maariv* now run such columns weekly, with other papers intending to follow. Leader is still *Sha'ar*, with its daily and weekly price lists and indexes. This week saw the birth of Israel's first coin weekly, *Tahbib* (literally, "hobby"). First issue still leaves much to be desired, but I keep my fingers crossed, hoping for the best.

Just when I was concluding the last paragraph, which was supposed to be the final item for this issue, a friend dropped in. He had something to show me. Victory coin, silver, but on a thicker blank and a much wider blank—by more than 3 mm compared with the usual coin, and with no inscription on the edge. Now we shall have to figure what it is. Has anybody anything like it?

* * *

And, to close, a word of *welcome*. America's loss is our gain, in the person of Sylvia Haffner. May her "absorption pangs" be short, and her contribution to numismatics in Israel as great as it was to the States.

KIBBUTZ TOKENS BUY DRESSES, FURNITURE OR FOOD

by Maurice M. Gould

The outstanding collector of Israeli coins, Ben Abelson, of Los Angeles, gave me a tape which was recorded in 1970 on the A.I.N.A. tour to Israel. This column will contain excerpts from the tape, part of which was taken at the home of Menachem Lew-Ran. Fred Roganson, who makes the trip with A.I.N.A. every year, and Ben and Claire Abelson visited Menachem, who showed them some kibbutz tokens. He told them the kibbutzim used to give members tokens for every purpose for a number of years; if they attended the theater, they exchanged their tokens for tickets. They paid for everything with tokens, and the kibbutzim redeemed them when they came in from the various businesses or places where they had been spent.

When a member of the kibbutz went into town to take a girl out on a date, he received special tokens for this purpose. Some kibbutzim had tokens for the purchase of shoes; another type could be used in the Kibbutz store to buy needed supplies.

Kibbutz Tokens for Dances

The Maccabee Kibbutz issued tokens for dresses and others for furniture, coffee and sugar. The Kibbutz Dahlia issued a token for dances.

Eventually all of these tokens will be listed in Sylvia Haffner's classic catalog of Israeli numismatic material.

There is a token issued from the kibbutz where, before the Six-Day War, the Syrians shot at the Israelis from the Golan Heights.

During 1948, transportation tokens were used on the buses. They were made from cardboard and each day were punched as used. This type of transportation card is still in use today.

Before Israel came into being, the Israel government wanted to prepare coinage. An order was given to someone in America to produce the money for the day of independence. When Independence Day came, the money did not arrive. As it was needed immediately, the authorities went to a printer in Tel Aviv and ordered some money. This emergency scrip was printed on one side with a blank reverse. The next morning the money arrived from the United States and all the emergency money was burned. Only photostats remain.

Some of the transportation tokens are quite unusual. A red Mogen David token was used by the voluntary organizations as bus fare. There were special areas where volunteers and doctors were on 24-hour duty, and when anyone was wounded or ill, the buses were prepared to bring the patient to the special area. The bus company bought 1,000 transportation tokens, and they were given to the voluntary organization. Each one had a value of 5 mils and the people who availed themselves of this transportation donated this money to the organization.

Archeology is a great popular pastime in Israel. Everyone is in hopes of finding something ancient. Sixty percent of the Israelis go out of town to the seashore at Caesarea, as well as other places to look for coins, and many of them are successful. I believe that it was on a trip to the Holy Land that Dick Yeoman was fortunate enough to discover an ancient coin. All that I personally found was a Coin World token that someone had dropped while we were wandering around some excavations.

(Reprinted from Numismatic News Weekly)

The ALPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. In the last issue of THE SHEKEL, I noted that you are the Exhibit Chairman for the AINA convention to be held in May. I would like to exhibit. What may I exhibit? Will I be allowed four cases for my material? M.V., Melville, L.I., N.Y.

A. All AINA members are invited to exhibit. All interested collectors should request a copy of the exhibit rules and application from me. Write to my office at 30 East 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. Displays, limited to five cases, may be entered in the following categories:

CLASS I—UNITED STATES

All coins, medals, currency and tokens of the U.S.—colonial to date.

CLASS II—STATE OF ISRAEL

All coins, medals, currency, and tokens of the State of Israel—1948 to date.

CLASS III—COINS OF THE HOLYLAND TO 1948

All ancient, medieval, or modern coinage struck, used or associated with The Holyland. Examples in the ancient coins are Biblical, Jewish, Seleucid, Ptolomaic, Palestine City-Coins, and Byzantine; in medieval times the Crusader coins; and Turkish and British Mandate in modern periods.

CLASS IV—JEWISH NUMISMATICA

All numismatic material pertaining to Jewish persons, place or events not covered by the foregoing three classifications.

All exhibitors will receive an appropriate award. In addition, there will be *First*, *Second* and *Third* trophies in each class plus a *Best-in-Show* award. Naturally, non-competitive exhibitors are of course welcome. Frankly, with the exhibits limited to one hundred

cases, I would like to see greater diversification by having two full cases telling a good complete story than seeing the same exhibit spread out in four cases and thereby excluding another one or two exhibitors. Readers are asked to pre-compose their exhibits on 21 x 33-inch sheets (the INSIDE dimensions of the exhibit cases) prior to making request for cases.

Q. I would appreciate it if someone would advise me as to the identification and value of the "coin" or "token" as pictured below. It is of solid bronze, approximately the size of a quarter and has a thickness in excess of an eighth of an inch. On one side are Hebrew lettering with the word: JERUSALEM. On the other side, also in Hebrew is the legend: HOLY SHEKEL. A coin dealer that I showed it to claimed it to be a "ghetto coin" approximately 150 years ago. Thank you.

D.B.H., New York City



A. I too have the same token. I have never found any reference to it. It is the thickest piece with high relief letters that I have ever seen. I paid two dollars for it some five years ago and would say that its value has changed little in the ensuing period. Perhaps one of our readers could help us both and forward the information.

Sylvia Haffner Writes To Her Friends

Jan. 28, 1973

Dear Friends in the U.S.:

It doesn't seem so very long ago that when we needed Israeli numismatic material, we could write to any dealer in Israel. He could supply all of our needs far cheaper than we could buy them in the States. In the short time that we have been in Israel, since September 4, 1972, the situation has changed radically! The Israeli dealers and collectors are now trying to buy everything back from the United States!

At a recent auction in Haifa, the bidding on the commemorative coins was unbelievable; They brought 3-4 times current selling prices in the States. The gold coins and medals have suddenly become investment pieces for the Israelis and are gobbled up whenever they appear on the market! The Bank of Israel proof, 1964 gold coin, at the present time is not available at any price. The new gold set of the 25th anniversary is being bought on futures and is doubling before its release!

The medals of Israel issued by the I.G.C.M. are really in short supply in the coin shops. All of the discontinued medals are not to be found and U.J.A. 59mm silver went for 1000 pounds on auction! It is almost impossible to put a set of State medals together at the present time.

The 35mm silver medals, a set of 19, cannot be found anywhere. The medals were issued at \$8.50 each . . . twice the price of a 5-pound commemorative! The majority of the medals have a final mintage of under 2000 pieces per each medal, far less than the 5-pound commemoratives and I presume that eventually this set of medals will command the same prices as the coins! I have always thought of them as a 2nd set of commemoratives and tried to encourage the collectors to collect them along with their commemorative coins. In fact the S.S. Shalom silver medal has been used by many as their Seafaring of the commemorative series when they could not afford the coin! The coins are similar in size (35mm verses 34mm) and in my opinion are more beautiful and meaningful than the coins!

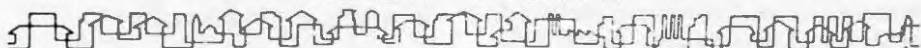
The minor coins or trade coins are hard to locate in the coin shops in uncirculated condition and the key coins like the 1 Agora 1960 (large date) is no longer found at all! I have seen 2 specimens offered for sale in all of Israel. In going through a bag of Agorots today, one only finds coins dated 1966 and up so no one bothers to go through the bags! The Israeli is just beginning to collect the trade coins of Israel and very shortly not a single key coin will be available . . . except that in the dealers' stocks in the States! I have long been an advocate of the trade coins of Israel for this is truly numismatics.

The U.S. collector of Israeli coins has been lured more into the romance of the commemoratives with little promotion of the trade coins. The U.S. collector of the trade coins of the United States is well aware of what it costs today to put together just a type set of U.S. coins in choice condition, let alone a date set! The half-dollar commemorative is still available but not the trade coins—in any quantity. The same thing will happen to the trade coins of Israel. The commemoratives will always be available in choice condition, when a collection is broken up, but will the trade coins be available? The Israeli dealers never bothered to put them away for there was no demand. When the demand arrives, there will be very little available in choice condition. This is also true of the paper money. The 1958 issue is no longer available in crisp condition.

The average dealer cannot afford to tie up his money even at face value when there is no demand. Wish I had another 50 years to go to see how the Israeli collector fares in his quest!

*Sylvia Haffner
Jerusalem*

Club News



Canadians Join INS in historic meeting in Toronto late in 1972. From left to right: A. Ben David, Rep. of IGCAM; Morris Bram, president of AINA; and Hon. Allan Grossman, Minister of Economic Development, Ontario.

CANADIAN INS FORMED IN TORONTO

A group of enthusiastic Toronto coin collectors has announced the formation of the Israel Numismatic Society of Toronto, another AINA affiliate.

The founding committee feels that there is sufficient local interest in the coins and medals of Israel and Palestine to sustain an active club.

Plans for the opening meeting

featured the showing of a film on Israel numismatics called *Within the Circle*, live Israeli folk music, exhibits and refreshments. Guests of honor expected to take part were Mayor William Dennison, Hon. Allan Grossman, and John Bassett, as well as the Israeli ambassador to Canada, and the Israeli consul and trade commissioner in Toronto.

Yitzhak Avni, director of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., and Morris Bram, head of the American Israel Numismatic Society, were also in attendance.



El Al stewardesses attended to assist with the activities while a display of coins and medals of the Israel Government Coins and Corporations added new knowledge to the scene.

TYDEWATER, VA. INS OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED

The official inauguration of the recently formed Israel Numismatic Society of Tydewater, Virginia, was held in February at the Jewish Community Center of Norfolk, Va., announced President pro-tem Morton S. Ronick.

Guests of honor at the meeting included U.S. Congressman G. William Whitehurst; the Director-General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., Yitzhak Avni; the North American Director of the Corporation, Consul Rafael Aldor; and the President of AINA, Morris Bram.

The program featured a film on Israel numismatics, presentations to the guests of honor, and a performance of Israeli folk music. Refreshments were served and there was a door prize drawing. Collectors in the area were invited to attend the meeting and join the new club.

According to Morton S. Ronick, President pro-tem, the Society meets every third Wednesday of the month at the Jewish Community Center of Norfolk. Prospective members may call Mr. Ronick at (703) 428-5597.

25th ANNIVERSARY MEDAL

Continued from page 15

medals in a variety of sizes and metals on top of the series he had already begun to collect voted to request the *Ad Hoc Committee* to replan the medal program of the *Anniversary Year*.

And so the first platinum medal in the history of the State of Israel was decided upon. Professor Yadin recommended incorporation of the 25th Anniversary symbol which had already been printed around the world by the Ministry of Tourism to represent this very special year; and to express the idea of *joy, luck and good wishes*, the zodiacal theme was set for the reverse, itself an art theme from a synagogue floor mosaic of the Past.

In northern Israel, at Beit Alfa, the floor of a Sixth Century CE synagogue depicts the twelve zodiacal signs. Thus, the original ideas of the *Committee*, to represent the Jewish past and to glorify its present were accomplished. And the Board of Directors could announce with great pride, a startlingly new and beautiful permanent medallic memento of a treasured occasion: *the 25th Birthday of the State of Israel in modern times*.

ISRAEL EXHIBIT WINS FIRST PRIZE FOR FIRST TIME EVEN AT FUN SHOW

A display of three cases of numismatic materials related to Israel won *First Prize* in the Miscellaneous Category at the FUN Show, the first time that an Israel Exhibit has ever won a First Place. The prize was won by Ed Schuman, Miami, Florida, vice-president of AINA.

The theme was the scope of Israel Numismatics. The information card listed eight different subjects with representation from each.

The case with most appeal and interest was one that costs exactly nothing, wrote Mr. Schuman. A printed card explained that the State of Israel through the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation annually issues a token of good wishes for the New Year. What other nation in the world has ever given away free items of this nature? The tokens were shown along with the Best Wishes cards. People came repeatedly to the Registration Desk to ask where they could get the free token of the State of Israel.

Noted Mr. Schuman: "*The glass on the case was cleaned up a dozen times on Sunday alone*".

COIN CONVENTION

Continued

An illustrated slide presentation on *The City Coins of Palestine* will be given by Edward Janis, AINA Board Member. Mr. Janis, who conducts the *Aleph Beth* page dedicated to the beginner in *The Shekel* is well known in local numismatic circles, having been president of three metropolitan coin clubs and currently secretary of a fourth. On the national scene, Mr. Janis is better known as a leading authority on the early tokens and merchant store cards of the U. S.

Complete information on the Greater New York Coin Convention may be obtained through Morris Bram, Convention Chairman, P. O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10008.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT INS MEETINGS

Mass.—THE MEM-O was the prizewinning name for the INS of Mass. newsletter with Louise Buckley winning the name-the-newsletter contest—by unanimous vote of the judges. Ed Shade was elected president. *Maryland*—“Historical City Coins and Medals” was set as theme for the recent February meeting, a meeting which set a precedent: the first auction in the INS of Maryland history. *Michigan*—A late Fall election resulted in a presidency for Dr. Burton Zack. The popular Arthur Leff with winner of *Best Exhibit Award* at the *Bluewater International Coin Show* in Ontario. The club bulletin advised that a silver *East German* 10-mark (1972) honors Heinrich Heine on 175th Anniversary of his birth. *Another Judaica item. San Fernando Valley, Calif.*—December marked first year of the group, announced president Jerry Yahalom. Maurice Gould was EmCee at the dinner meeting in December. *Ohio*—“Military History of Israel thru Coins, Medals, Etc.” was a unique meeting held recently by the INS of Cleveland. *Los Angeles, Calif.*—Busy, busy Maurice Gould elected president of the famed LA Israel Coin Club. At their banquet, guests were presented with a special pocket magnifier. *A few were left over; the first 36 people to send 55c to the club at P.O. Box 1500, Tustin, Calif. 92680 gets this souvenir of the occasion.* For 1972, the group honored the Sidney Publishing Co., publishers of the COIN WORLD, WORLD COINS, etc. (*Shucks! Maybe The Shekel will get it another year!*) *San Gabriel Valley, Calif.*—A recent issue of THE OLIVE BRANCH newsletter told of the growth of an Israel Coin Club formed within a local synagogue and among other friends. A page was given over to the Truman medal issued by *Judaic Heritage Society*. An editorial, “Where Have the Hanukkah Coins Gone” quotes Y. Avni as saying: “Israel has gone coin-crazy”. *New Jersey*—NOVA CAESAREA is the name of the recently

launched monthly newsletter of the INS of New Jersey. Recent meetings heard such topics as “Methods of Recording and Inventorying Coins and Medals” and “Israel Now”, a meeting which attracted 300 people, featured Y. Avni. The group now has 64 members; and wants 100. Another New Jersey group is meeting now in Central Jersey. *There are now three states with two or more INS groups.* Their newsletter lists all meeting dates on each appearance. *Good idea. Illinois*—Speaker Dr. Jack P. Cowen thrilled members of the INS of Illinois with a recent presentation of ancient coins by slides and an excellent narration. An unusual exhibit at that meeting was of a 1906 bronze medal to “General Mercier”, inscribed “*Justicier de Traître Dreyfus*”, issued by the French prosecutor of Alfred Dreyfus. *Isn't that enough to make you cry?* Two doctors are now President and First Vice President of the group: Dr. Saul Needleman and Dr. Alan Feinberg. Doctors have that club “wrapped up”. Remember that Dr. Cowen spoke at the meeting? The very NEXT meeting was also addressed by a doctor (Dr. Alfred Soffer) and he spoke about another doctor: “Maimonides”. *Oi, doctors, you make it hurt; on this side, over here.* Retiring president Harry Flower reported that he has attended 43 of 44 meetings of the INSI. *Harry: for this you should be awarded a Judah J. Benjamin cash award.* *Florida*—“Jews in America BEFORE Columbus and the Vikings” was the theme of a recent talk at the INS of Greater Miami by Hy Sootin. A second speaker on the bill was scheduled to talk about Jews in Florida before the Civil War. *Do you think the Jews in Florida dug up coins left by the Jews who came before Columbus? H'mmmmmmmmm. I wish I was at THAT meeting.* President Sid Smith promised members to deliver the long awaited Hannukah and Pid-yon HaBen coins. *I hope they weren't disappointed too. SEE YOU ALL AT THE CONVENTION IN MAY!*



THE JEWISH STAR

by Ben Odesser

Many people think of the 'Jewish' star or hexagram or *Magen David* (Shield of David) as being a Jewish symbol descending from antiquity or actually from King David's time. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Today the 'Jewish' star is, in fact, universally recognized as *THE* Jewish symbol. If any other peoples, such as the ancient Hindus or the 19th century Moroccans who used the symbol — have any claim to it — they evidently have abandoned the symbol of the Jews.

Quoting from the book, *Jewish Magic and Superstitions*: "The hexagram, in fact, has no direct connection with Judaism. The Hindus used the symbol as a potent talisman: it occurs often in Arabic amulets and in Medieval Christian Magical texts. Its magical virtues were known in Jewish circles at an early time; they are to be found often in medieval amulets and mezuzot. Names of God and Biblical texts were frequently inscribed within the triangles of the magical hexagram.

The World Book Reference Library has pointed out that the symbol was originated by the ancient Hindus and called a 'CHAKRAM'. The triangle pointed upward was an ideograph for fire, and the triangle pointed downward was an ideograph for water. So, although the hexogram has been used, intermittently, by Jews from about the 3rd century, CE, as a mystical and superstitious symbol, it never was a strictly Jewish symbol until fairly recently.

In 1873 the *American Jewish Publication Society* adopted the 'hexagram' as the Jewish star. (This will probably be a shock to Harry X. Boosel (Mr. 1873) who supposedly knows everything that happened in 1873!) In 1897 it was adopted by the *1st Zionist Congress* in Basel, Switzerland. From then on, the Jewish star was *THE* symbol of the Jews. During the 1st World War, Jewish organizations doing military relief work used the 'Red Magen David' as an insignia or equal rank with the 'Red Cross'. By this time the use and popularity of the six-pointed star among non-Jews began to recede. For example, practically all the U.S. coinage of the 19th century had six-pointed stars, but as the coinage was changed in the 20th century, the six-pointed star left our coinage, except for the eagle and double-eagle.

The real publicity firmly establishing the hexagram as the Jewish Star, in the eyes of the entire world, was when Hitler ordered every Jew to wear a yellow Jewish star. **THAT DID IT!** Non-Jews abandoned using the 'Jewish' star, and it became an exclusive Jewish symbol. In the 1930's even the police departments that used a six-pointed star switched to a five-pointed star, as in Chicago, and in other police departments.

So, even though the history has not been definitely settled — maybe it is truly the 'Shield of David' as the signature of King David are the three letters, — *Daled — Waw — Daled* — which by extension compose a double triangle.

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